

**Suggested Remarks**  
**Ambassador Kristie Kenney**  
**Philippine Department of Energy's**  
**Release of Php 21 million to AMORE**  
**31 May 2006, 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.**  
**DOE Compound, Taguig City**

Honorable Raphael Lotilla, Department of  
Energy Secretary

Honorable Aurora E. Cerilles, Governor  
Zamboanga del Sur

Honorable Rolando E. Yebes, Governor,  
Zamboanga del Norte

Melinda Ocampo, Undersecretary, Department  
of Energy

Good Morning!

I am honored to witness the further  
strengthening of the partnership between the  
Department of Energy and the U.S. Government  
as we work towards achieving the goals of  
the Philippine's ambitious rural  
electrification program. The 21 million  
peso grant of the Department of Energy will

enable our Alliance of Mindanao Off-Grid Renewable Energy (AMORE) to electrify additional barangays in Mindanao.

Our partnership brings more than electricity to the rural areas of Mindanao - it brings hope.

Hope is a very potent ingredient for peace and development. It fuels an individual and a communities' desire for positive change. It helps creates the condition for development, and contributes to a community's esteem.

We have seen the effect of community participation in our renewable energy project. The people innovate in maximizing use of the electricity generated by the renewable energy. They now weave mats at

night; they have mechanized their production of rattan chairs; they upgrade their drying facilities; they use the power to deliver water to households, and for irrigation; and schoolchildren extend their study time.

These are some of the initiatives taken up by AMORE beneficiaries.

So it is not surprising that our AMORE communities - now equipped with light *and* hope - are now talking of and taking action to address other development needs, such as income generation, health and education services, and the general social welfare of the community.

I congratulate the Department of Energy and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) for providing the political will, direction and oversight necessary to ensure

that the AMORE Project supports the Philippine government's rural electrification and development plans for Mindanao.

I congratulate Mirant Philippines, our dedicated private sector partner in this venture. Mirant Philippines has demonstrated outstanding corporate social responsibility by providing the much needed energy equipment. Without Mirant, there would be no AMORE Project.

I would like to commend Winrock International, the U.S. government's cooperator for the AMORE Project, for its valuable efforts and dedication to community development and organization.

The AMORE project shows that with commitment, courage and dedication, we can work together to improve the quality of peoples' lives and help secure a lasting peace in Mindanao. The U.S. Government and the American people are honored to be part of this worthy effort. I hope that the light we help provide will continue to be a beacon for peace in all of Mindanao.

Thank you, and once again, congratulations!